[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it is in the Administration Report.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Government have referred the matter to the expert?

PRESIDENT: The expert's opinion has already been received.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Have the Government incurred any additional expenditure by way of referring the report of the Press Committee to an outside expert?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Absolutely nothing. The matter will be taken up and orders passed on the committee's report soon. If it is found possible to reduce the expenditure on the Press, it will also be done.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Press Committee's Report be placed on the table?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pettanamtitta*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 2·74 lakhs be granted under Demand XVII—Stationery and Printing. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·48 lakh under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motion 322.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

322. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase of animals by Rs. 4,500.

Sir, my object in making the motion is to point out the necessity for reducing this amount.

PRESIDENT: Reducing which amount?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The amount in the budget.

PRESIDENT: It is not a reduction that you propose, but it amounts almost to a total extinction of this item.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I may be permitted to point out that, in the previous years, the amount

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did not exceed Rs. 600. For example in 1098 the amount was Rs. 118. In 1099 it was estimated to spend only Rs. 600. Over and above this fact that in previous years the amount was small as compared with the provision now made, I beg to point out that there is no necessity for purchasing animals from outside. Travancore is rich in its fauna and flora and the animals that are found in the Public Gardens are generally found in the forests of Travancore.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF. (*Nominated*) : Lion ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Except the orang-outang and the lion.

PRESIDENT : Zebra and hippopotamus ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : I understand that the animals are purchased from the Malay States throughout the world as the Malay States appear to be the supplying ground of these animals. My information is that our animals are purchased from dealers in Germany, Australia and other places and naturally the value we have to pay will be considerably high. The establishment is now controlled by a Director and there appears to be a Superintendent to supervise the work of the Public Gardens and the Museum. The controlling authorities are not permanent, and though it is nearly three years since the present arrangement was made, we find that there is still no permanent Superintendent or a permanent Director to supervise the work.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether it is obligatory that the controlling agency should be permanently there ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : I understand that the Superintendent is living in the Public Gardens. It is necessary that he should live there in the interest of the work that he has to perform.

PRESIDENT : Is he not in the permanent service of the Government ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Are the visitors at liberty to see him also if they want ? (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Certainly. It is necessary that he should live there in the better interest and better management of the Public Gardens. It would be better to invest the controlling authority in a committee than in a Director.

PRESIDENT : How does that arise on this motion ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : My proposal is that the recommendation for the purchase of animals, etc., should come from a committee instead of from the Director who takes an occasional interest in the matter.

PRESIDENT : Occasional interest ?

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): In the early days, for instance in the days of Sir T. Madhava Rao, there was a committee composed of some high European officers.

PRESIDENT: That is a policy which you can discuss under the general cut.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) I am discussing the policy underlying this particular question.

PRESIDENT: I think it hardly arises. You have got to show that there is no necessity to purchase these animals. That is the only thing you can now say.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Incidentally I may point out, Sir, that, if the recommendation had come from a committee rather than from a solitary individual, it would have carried more weight. It was the case when it was managed by a committee composed of the Dewan, the British Resident and other distinguished personages.

PRESIDENT: They are not experts.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Experts may be added to the committee and of course those who take interest in the Public Gardens will naturally take interest in the Museum also. It is better that the administration is vested in a committee than in the Director. The recommendation coming from a solitary individual who cannot be expected to know the condition of the forests in Travancore is not entitled to much weight. It is better if the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Industries and some other heads of similar departments be brought on to the committee so that they may consider whether animals should not be obtained from the Travancore forests instead of purchasing them at a high price from outside. With these words, I move the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's motion. The chief reason is this. The occasional assistance of a committee to guide the deliberations regarding the Museum and Public Gardens would be quite welcome.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that question does not arise.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am referring to it incidentally.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai said that he was not prepared to attach great weight to these recommendations, because they come from a single individual.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am leading from this point to another point. Government do not get a recommendation except from the Director.

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PRESIDENT: The Director consults the Superintendent, I suppose.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Recommendations may emanate from the lowest peons and can go up. Ultimately we are concerned only with the recommendation from the Museum Director because he is the responsible man. Now in a matter like this it is better that a safeguard of proposals is invested in a body of persons who take interest in natural history. Then I think it will be more valuable. As it is, the Director, according to my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, is necessarily obliged to keep in touch with the animals around him and probably gets bewildered and distracted by the strange noise and unaccountable behaviour on their part. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: It is the Superintendent who lives in the Gardens and is being distracted and not the Director.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the Superintendent is being distracted, he might probably be influenced considerably by what he sees around him. Then in his estimate with respect to the animals, I think, he might be erring one way or the other. It is better that we get a more reliable assurance to go upon so that the recommendations may be acted upon. As it is, if Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai is particular to press the motion, I will certainly back him.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's chief ground was that all that was sanctioned was not spent in the purchase of proper animals. But I cannot agree with him, when he said that, because the flora and fauna of Travancore are rich, therefore all the animals should be found in Travancore. Sir, Travancore animals do not require to be purchased and kept in the Museum, because such animals—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Does Mr. Velu Pillai think that these animals would come of their own accord? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There are some animals who go to the Museum and Public Gardens of their own accord. (*Laughter.*) I am only referring to those animals which require compulsion and coercive process for being preserved in the Museum. The Museum and Public Gardens are maintained not merely to preserve those animals, reptiles, and birds that are available in large numbers here, but to show rare animals to people for educational purposes. If that is so, I shall certainly be not justified in supporting Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's suggestion that, because forests in Travancore are rich and because there are animals, no purchase need be made from outside. The Museum and Public Gardens is one of those institutions which trade upon an ancient name and ancient prestige, because for a number of years it has been in existence and tributes were paid by great men and women for the excellent way in which the institution was managed. There is a similar institution just near the Museum—the Observatory—which also

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

trades on its ancient past. There were rare animals such as the rhinoceros, giraffe, etc., which used to be a matter of wonder. Although that good old rhinoceros died (*laughter*) several years ago, it has not been replaced. We do not want to see elephants in the gardens as we see them everyday. We do not want to see horses either.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Does Mr. Velu Pillai know that they are going to purchase a rhinoceros with the allotment provided?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I do not know what they are going to do. I am complaining as to what they have not done. If Government want to maintain a museum and gardens useful for educational purposes, they ought not to stint money. There is one aspect which I cannot but place before the House. Government are not sufficiently alive to the necessity of improving the Museum and Public Gardens, as great men and women who come to Travancore from outside and visit the museum give good certificates because Travancore animals and plants are new to them and they are biologically, botanically interesting. Just the reverse is the case with the Travancorean. He does not want to see a cocoanut palm growing as he sees many in his own garden. He sees cows and hens in his own house. He wants to see plants and animals from other places. It is better to spend enough to secure adequate advantage than to spend a small sum and get no advantage at all.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I am opposed to the motion as far as the animal kingdom is concerned. I think our zoological garden is one of the very best in India and it is a very great pity if we abolish it. So that portion of the motion I oppose. With regard to the appointment of a committee instead of a Director being in charge, I must say that once it was the Chief Secretary, and at some other period a professor, and now it is another professor who is in charge of the institution. I think a committee composed of members who have some idea of plants and animals like Mr. Robinson, who is a splendid hand in gardening, will do much better than school-masters.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move that the question be now put.

The closure motion was carried.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The points raised by Messrs. Ramakrishna Pillai and Narayana Pillai have, I think, been satisfactorily answered by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. The educational and scientific value of an institution like the Museum and Public Gardens depends upon the large assortment of animals that can be placed there from all climes. In fact we had a collection of animals such as rhinoceros, zebra, etc. It is with a view to purchase such animals that Mr. Pryde has suggested this provision.

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In fact he wanted Rs. 10,000 but Government reduced it to Rs. 5,000. We have not been purchasing any animals for the zoo from outside for the past several years. So this provision is very necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do not some people entertain particular aversion to particular animals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They need not go to the zoo.

PRESIDENT: I suppose these animals are liked by all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): This is my question. The officer in charge who makes recommendations may have aversion to particular animals. For example, some famous generals do not want to see cats. If the Director has some such aversion towards such animals, why should we not have other people also to consider the recommendation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Pryde is a naturalist and a botanist. He may not have any aversion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): If that is so and if science prevails over inclinations I do not want to ask the question.

PRESIDENT: That is the presumption

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 323 to 327.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

323. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase of animals by Rs. 3,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

324. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for upkeep of other animals by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

325. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for upkeep of other animals by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

326. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 850 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 350.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

327. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for contingencies.

Motion 328.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

328. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for contingencies under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Protector of Depressed Classes.

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[Mr. N. Kumaran].

My object in moving this motion is to elicit some more facts from Government as to the nature of the work done by the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

PRESIDENT: He was appointed only the other day, and he has not yet begun his regular work.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the nature of the work he is expected to do?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): To give facilities to the depressed classes and to safeguard their interests. The G. O. on the subject defining his duties has been placed in the Press Room and published in the *Gazette*.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 48 lakh be granted under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 62 lakh under Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motions 329 and 330.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

329. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for binding charges by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

330. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10 580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Motion 331.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

331. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Sir, the Public Library is certainly a very useful institution and Government have been spending a lot of money for its maintenance. In 1098, Rs. 11,830 seems to have been spent on this account. There was also a receipt of Rs. 3,980 in the same year, the net expenditure for 1098 being Rs. 7,890. Therefore it is clear that about two thirds of the expenditure is met from the general revenues. Now, you will find that in the arrangement provided in the Library for the convenience of the public there are certain defects. There is a members' room where

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